

written; and

a state-designating conductive member provided on a surface of the supporting card designating a state of said storage medium means in which writing information to the storage medium means is permitted or prohibited, wherein a write-permitting or a write-inhibiting [signal] state is [produced] indicated by said state-designating conductive member.

4. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said supporting card is nonconductive and said state-designating conductive member is conductive to [designate] indicate that said writing information is prohibited.

8. (Amended) An information storage apparatus comprising:  
a storage medium in which information can be written; and  
a support member incorporating said storage medium, the support member having a first portion on a main surface thereof where an external connection terminal electrically connected to said storage medium is provided, and a second portion on said main surface, where a state-designating member for designating a state in which writing of information to the storage medium is permitted or prohibited is provided, and wherein a write-permitting or a write-inhibiting [signal] state is [produced] indicated by said state-designating member.

12. (Amended) The information storage apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said first portion where said external connection terminal is provided is formed in a first recess on the main surface of said support member and said second portion where said state-designating

LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,  
FARABOW, GARRETT,  
& DUNNER, L.L.P.  
1300 I STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
202-408-4000

member for designating a state in which writing of information is permitted or prohibited is provided is formed in a second recess on the main surface of said support member.

15. (Amended) The information storage apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said first portion where said external connection terminal is provided is formed in a first recess on the main surface of said support member and said second portion where said state-designating member for designating a state in which writing of information is permitted or prohibited is provided is formed in a second recess on the main surface of said support member.

18. (Amended) An information storage apparatus comprising:  
a storage medium in which information can be written; and  
a support member incorporating said storage medium, the support member having a first portion on a main surface thereof where an external connection terminal electrically connected to said storage medium is provided, and a second portion on said main surface, adapted for providing thereon a state-designating member for designating a state in which writing of information to the storage medium is permitted or prohibited, wherein[,] a write-permitting or a write-inhibiting [signal] state is [produced] indicated by said state-designating member.

22. (Amended) The information storage apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said first portion where said external connection terminal is provided is formed in a first recess on the main surface of said support member and said second portion adapted to be provided with said

LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,  
FARABOW, GARRETT,  
& DUNNER, L.L.P.  
1300 I STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
202-408-4000